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REPORTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLAND

[Comment: The following are two daily newspaper accounts of the purge of Jews taking place in Poland.]

The first account, taken from Stockholms-Tidningen, organ of the Swedish Liberal Party, traces Communist anti-Semitism in Poland from summer 1952 until the present.

The second account appeared in the Day-Jewish Journal, a New York Yiddish-language daily, depicts the present Jewish terror in Poland as related by Jewish Polish immigrants who recently arrived in Israel.⁷

PURGE OF JEWS IN POLAND -- Stockholm, Stockholms-Tidningen, 16 Mar 53

According to reliable Polish sources, a special bureau for Jewish affairs has secretly been established in the branch office of the Polish Security Police (UB) in Bialystok. This bureau, the Special Office for the Register of People of Jewish Extraction (Specjalne Biuro dla Ewidencji Ludnosci Zydowskiego Pochodzenia w Polsce), is directed by Soviet Colonel Morozov with the assistance of several other Soviet MVD officers. The bureau is compiling a special register of all Jews in Poland.

The purge of Polish Jews quietly began in summer 1952. To start with, only a few persons were affected. According to Soviet orders, the purge is to be carried out at a gradually increasing tempo but not so publicly and dramatically as in Czechoslovakia or the USSR. The Communist administration of Poland, and particularly the Security Police, employs more persons of Jewish extraction than any other country behind the Iron Curtain. In order not to cause panic and chaos within the Polish Communist Party and the nation's administration, the purge of allegedly unreliable Jews within the state apparatus is to be carried out unostentatiously. For this reason, Bialystok, the distant provincial capital near the USSR border, has been selected as the headquarters for this new bureau. The area around Bialystok is to serve as a kind of ghetto and concentration camp.

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Already, and under various pretexts, the transfer of Jews in military service has begun, especially of those who are stationed on the coast or in the western border area. These Jews are being transferred to the Bialystok area, where they are assigned to new subordinate posts. The purge has been extended to the technical and military organizations, and a purge of the Defense and Communications Ministries and the Ministry for Heavy Industry is now beginning. Next will be the Justice, Education, and Foreign Affairs Ministries. Jews who are serving with diplomatic missions, consulates, or commercial delegations are to be called home. The Foreign Office in Warsaw has, on orders, compiled special lists to be followed.

The most difficult problem will be the reorganization of the Security Police, which is run largely by Polish Jews. Most of the top posts in this organization are occupied by Poles of Jewish extraction, for example, Colonel Ajzen, Colonel Gotland, Jakubowicz, Cyngisel, and Kornecki (alias Korneman), the former Polish Military Attache in Stockholm.

In well-informed Polish circles in Warsaw it is being asked how it will fare with Lt Col Skalny, the chief of the so-called Passport Bureau at 14 Armja Wojska Polskiego in Warsaw. It is he who decides who may travel out of the country. Skalny is of Jewish birth and is generally feared.

Many Jewish non-Communist organizations which long have led a vegetative existence now are being dissolved. This is true of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee at 22 Listopada in Warsaw and its store Outlet at 5 Tlumacka.

Most of the synagogues in Poland have already been closed and there is only one Jewish rabbi left, the Rabbi of Lodz. The property of the Jewish community has been confiscated by the state. The Jewish settlements are suffering financially, and no material aid is permitted from the outside.

In addition, those Jews who during or after the war gave up the Mosaic faith and assumed Christian first names and pure Polish surnames are expected to be affected by the purge.

The mass appointment of new officials in various departments is one of many covert anti-Semitic actions. It is interesting that, although the Polish newspapers for some weeks now have published nearly every day the names of new government appointees, they do not print the names of those who are discharged, most of whom are Jews. -- Norbert Zaba

POLISH JEWS IN TERROR -- New York, The Day-Jewish Journal, 11 Mar 53

Tel Aviv, 10 March 1953 -- It was reported here today that since the Prague trials, the Jews of Poland have been living in terror, and that this terror has become even greater since the USSR has broken diplomatic relations with Israel. This information was related to Israeli press representatives by a group of 23 Polish Jewish immigrants, mostly elderly people, who yesterday arrived in Israel from Poland.

The new arrivals asserted that the current anxiety of the Jews in Poland is so great that even active Jewish Communists now regret not having registered for immigration to Israel. One immigrant declared that, while in Poland, he had burnt all the Hebrew books in his possession. He added that other Jews of the country did likewise, fearing that if such books were found in their possession, they would be characterized as "cosmopolitan."

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